

LOYOLA OF MONTREAL

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HOME OF THE WARRIORS

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETICS

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LOYOLA BASKETBALL-HOCKEY SQUADS WITH BEST NATIONAL RECORDS PREP FOR PLAY-OFFS

It's been a fruitful season for Loyola College Varsity Basketball and Hockey teams. Both clubs ended their Ottawa-St. Lawrence Intercollegiate League schedules on a winning note last weekend and now prepare for this weekend's OSL Championship Playoffs.

Loyola which has been denied University status, boasts the best hockey and basketball record amongst the 53 Universities competing intercollegiately across the country. For the Basketball Warriors it was a flawless 14-0 season. Coach Doug Daigneault and his charges crushed defending champion Bishops University 101-81 Friday and got by University of Sherbrooke 92-81 on Saturday to complete a unique unbeaten season.

With the City Intercollegiate Basketball League Championship already under their belts the Warriors now look to bigger and better things. They meet Sherbrooke, Friday nite at the new Carleton University gymnasium in a 6:45 p.m. semi-final. Bishops and Carleton will square off in the other semi-final. The winners will clash on Saturday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. for the OSL crown.

Dave Draper and his hockey Warriors almost duplicated the Basketball team's unblemished record. Draper's skaters lost only one of 16 matches (a 4-1 setback to Sir George Williams early in the season) to finish seven points ahead of second place Sherbrooke.

The Warriors will face Bishops in one of the sudden death semi-finals at the Loyola athletic complex Friday night. Defending champions Sir George Williams University Georgians who have won the OSL crown the last four years will meet Sherbrooke in the other semi-final.

Both Draper and Daigneault feel their respective clubs have the potential to win this weekend and advance to the Nationals.

Daigneault did a tremendous coaching job this year getting his young and inexperienced team to play together.

In the semi-finals Loyola faces Sherbrooke while Bishops takes on Carleton. It should be a Carleton-Loyola final.

"I think Carleton can beat Bishops because they have more balance", says Daigneault. "and I feel Carleton on their home floor could upset us"

Daigneault isn't looking to any one particular player to stand out in the play-offs. "If you notice", says Daigneault. "We didn't have one single player threaten for the OSL scoring championship. We have six or seven players who can and have scored in the double figures. That was the secret of our success a good team effort and if we play that way this weekend we could be in the Nationals the following weekend."

Daigneault plans to take his team to Ottawa on Thursday, "so we can practice on that rubberized surface and get used to it before we play".

The team is healthy except for centre John McAuliffe and guard Jim Ivy. McAuliffe is still favoring an ankle he injured three weeks ago and Ivy suffered a shoulder separation against Bishop's Friday. Ivy didn't see action against Sherbrooke Saturday but may be ready for this weekend's crucial contest.

"It's a brand new season we are getting into", That's how Dave Draper looks at this weekend's games.

Although the Hockey Warriors defeated Bishop's by 8-3 and 4-1 scores during the regular schedule, Draper doesn't regard the Gaiters as pushovers.

"Granted we didn't have much trouble against them during the season", says the rookie Loyola pilot. "But they have two or three players who can put the puck in the net so we can't get overconfident."

Draper feels it will take a real team effort to advance into the National Championships. "Sherbrooke has a great skating club and don't count Sir George out either."

The Hockey Warriors hope to be at full strength for the Play-offs. Roger Wilding and Chris Hayes who didn't play last weekend against Bishop's and Sherbrooke will be back in harness. Draper plans to use Andy Molino.